THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) As per Commissioner of Railway Safety/Eastern Circle's Preliminary Report, the derailment of 2391 UP Magadh Vikramshila Express between Varuna and Buxar Stations of Danapur Division under East Central Railway, on 1.6.2003, occurred *prima facie,* due to 'cutting of cess side running rail and shifting the cut piece from it position towards other rail'. He has classified this accident under the category "Sabotage".

(c) and (d) In sabotage, FIR is lodged under the respective Police Station.

Investigation of train tragedy in Punjab

675. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the finding of the investigations in the recent train tragedy in Punjab;

(b) whether the main reasons for fatalities was because of smoke inhalation or burns or any other cause;

(c) what was the cause of fire on the train;

(d) whether RPF has been instructed to conduct random check on passengers baggage at all major stations for inflammable materials before boarding train;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Commissioner of Railway Safety/North Eastern Circle, who is conducting statutory investigation into this accident, has mentioned in his preliminary inquiry report that cause of the fire can be ascertained only after the receipt of the report of State Forensic Science Laboratory, Chandigarh.

(d) to (f) After this accident, a special drive deploying Commercial,

RPF and Station Staff have been launched to prevent carriage of inflammable material etc. and intensive publicity campaigns have been launched to educate travelling public.

Statement by Railway Officials at accident site

676. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in earlier accidents and even after the recent derailment of Magadh Express, Railway officials at the site gave statements to the Press covering the derailment that this was a case of sabotage;

(b) if so, whether Railways feels the need to instruct Railway officials to restrain from making such statements to the Press about possible causes of accidents before the investigation of each rail mishap is completed;

(c) whether Railways is willing to release transparent investigation reports on all rail mishaps in future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Publication of inquiry reports of serious train accidents, is done by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, who works under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Rail Line between Samdari and Jasai

677. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of passenger trains running between Samdari-Barmer-Jasai of Rajasthan;

(b) whether there has been inordinate delay in laying of railway lines in that section;